

MINUTES OF MEETING  
State Board of Education  
March 14-15, 2002

The March meeting of the State Board of Education was held in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. The following Board members were present: Corine Hadley, Gene Vincent, Charles Edwards, Sally Frudden, Gregory McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery, Donald Roby, Kay Wagner and John White. Also present were Department director Ted Stilwill and Department staff members Gail Sullivan, Judy Jeffrey, Ann McCarthy, Kathi Slaughter, Carol Greta, Jan Friedel, Susan Anderson, Laurie Phelan, Roger Foelske, Evelyn Anderson, Susan Fischer, Michelle Tosel, John Hartwig, Su McCurdy, Laurie Phelan, Jan Huss, Ed White, Marlene Dorenkamp, Dee Gethmann, Eric Heitz, Lana Michelson and Beverlee Adams. Also present were Dwight Carlson, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Education and Services; Anne Kruse, Executive Director, Board of Educational Examiners; Jim Wise, Sue Donielson, Urban Education Network; Troy Dannen, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Iowa High School Athletic Association; Jim Lindenmayer, President, Indian Hills Community College; Pam Pfitzenmaier, Director, Division of Educational Telecommunications, Brenda Colby, Des Moines Area Community College; and Kathy Bolten, *Des Moines Register*.

**JOINT MEETING WITH THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES**

The State Board met jointly with representatives of the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees on the topic of developmental education. The major agenda item was a panel presentation by Jim Lindenmayer, President and Mary Stewart, Indian Hills Community College; Michael Morrison, President and Lori Quinlan, Instructor, North Iowa Area Community College. Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation was the moderator for the panel.

President Corine Hadley called the Board's business meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by John White to approve the agenda as written.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Board Member Reports**

Greg McClain gave a power point presentation summarizing the report, “A More Perfect Union: Building an Education System that Embraces all Children” that had been released from the NASBE Changing Faces of American Children Committee.

McClain indicated he had had many rewarding experiences while serving on this national committee and would encourage other Board members to take this opportunity. President Hadley thanked Mr. McClain for his participation and time given to serving on this committee. He said this committee had been charged with exploring the role of state policies in creating schools that prepare students for a diverse society and workforce; educate a culturally diverse population to high standards of achievement; and foster national unity while respecting and honoring diversity.

McClain indicated he had been in attendance for the I-JAG meeting.

John White – No report

Mary Jean Montgomery reported she had attended a community issues forum with several legislators in attendance. She felt a good discussion was held regarding education issues in this legislative session.

Ms. Montgomery also reiterated her concerns about community college program approvals and having a report made to the Board on this application process.

Don Roby said he would delay his community college conversation for discussion when the agenda item was presented. He also reported that the bond issue in his community had failed with a 57.8 percent vote. Roby provided an op-ed article that had been submitted by the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

Sally Frudden shared her concern for the shortage of teachers in Iowa as well as the volume of community college presidents with years of expertise that were retiring. She presented an idea of some State

Board recognition being given to the retiring presidents of the community colleges.

Frudden indicated she had attended the AEA/Design Committee held in the Department and reviewed the agenda presented at this meeting. (i.e. AEA mergers, revising membership of committee, guiding principles, philosophy and goals.) She noted her appreciation for the collaboration of Area Education Agencies and the Department of Education.

Gene Vincent reported he had attended the area superintendents' meeting in Fort Dodge. The major discussion item was the most efficient use of dollars during the reductions in school budgets. Vincent said he had been invited to participate in the Iowa Association of School Board's Leadership Academy discussing the topic, "Being a Board Member."

Charlie Edwards – No report

Kay Wagner reported she had attended the area superintendents' meeting and many of the same concerns expressed by Gene Vincent were discussed. She indicated she would bring her report on athletics at the time listed on the agenda.

Corine Hadley reviewed her meeting with the Iowa Public Television Board and its search for a new director upon the retirement of David Bolender. She had also attended the NASBE legislative conference and had an opportunity to visit with Iowa Congress members.

President Hadley reported that she had given her President's farewell message to the National Association of State Boards of Education meeting. She shared her appreciation for the many fun and rewarding experiences this opportunity had provided. Hadley noted that NASBE was asking individual states to encourage associate memberships of school districts to keep the State Board dues at the present rate. The cost for the associate memberships is \$150.00 annually. Ms. Hadley reinforced the leadership role the Board and Department played in this state and the importance of maintaining this role.

### **Director's Report**

Director Ted Stilwill indicated the legislative update would be moved on the agenda to meet the availability of Ann McCarthy, legislative liaison. Stilwill reported on the following topics:

Teacher Quality Issues

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the January 10, 2002 meeting were approved as written and the January 17, 2002 minutes were approved with the following addition to page 4:

A question was raised as to why no change was being proposed to rule 36.15(2), which governs academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletic competitions. The presenters noted that no one from either athletic organization asked for a change to the present rule of passing 4 courses per semester. After discussing possible alternatives to the present requirement, including a statewide GPA of 2.0 or that all coursework be passed in order to be eligible for athletics, the Board directed staff to seek input from schools, school districts, and other educational stakeholders, to ascertain local and other state policies, and to report back at the April Board meeting.

### **Rule: Conservation Education**

281 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 68, "Conservation Education" was approved for adoption.

### **Rule: Waivers or Variances from Administrative Rules of the School Budget Review Committee**

289 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 8 was approved for adoption.

### **Rules: Standards for Practitioner Preparation Programs (Rescind) and Standards for Graduate Practitioner Preparation Programs (Rescind)**

The rescission of 281 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 77 and 78 was approved for final adoption.

### **Rules: Program Approval for Teacher Intern Preparation Programs (Notice)**

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, gave an overview on Chapter 77, "Standards for Teacher Intern Preparation Programs." She indicated

that Chapter 256.7 of the Code of Iowa provides the authority for the State Board to set standards and procedures for the approval of practitioner preparation programs. These rules will govern the Department of Education's approval process of teacher intern programs in Iowa colleges and universities.

Motion: Mary Jean Montgomery moved and Gene Vincent seconded that the Board adopt the notice of intended action for Chapter 77, "Standards for Teacher Intern Preparation Programs.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

### **Program Approvals**

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, presented the following two program approvals for approval:

1. Postsecondary Vocational program through Northwest Iowa Community College (NWCC) – Automotive Collision Repair Technology: NWCC currently has a 48-semester hour diploma program in Auto Collision Repair. The college will continue offering the one-year diploma program in order to expand the opportunity for students who wish to obtain an AAS degree in this technical field. The college will make both awards available to students; thus, this is a new program proposal, as opposed to a request to lengthen an existing program.
2. Secondary program through Lenox Community School District – Automotive Mechanic: This program has been in existence for a number of years, and is brought forward for State Board approval so that it is eligible for state secondary vocational school aid.

Greg McClain requested more information on gender projections for program approvals provided to the Board. Administrator Friedel said she would bring a progress report to the Board in May. Mary Jean Montgomery reported an error on the title of the Lenox Community School District program and suggested it be corrected and moved to the April Board agenda. Roger Foelske, Consultant indicated the title

should read “construction program” and strategies should have also been provided.

Motion: It was moved by Kay Wagner and seconded by Charlie Edwards that the title of the Lenox Community School District program be amended to read “construction program” and that all program approvals be approved.

Vote: Ayes-Hadley, Vincent, Edwards, Frudden, McClain, Wagner, and White. Nays – Montgomery, Roby. Motion carried.

### **Iowa Community Colleges Fiscal Year 2002 Financial Status Report**

Janice Friedel, Administrator; Michelle Tosel, Consultant, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation and Dr. Jim Lindenmayer, President, Indian Hills Community College were available to present an overview on the community college financial status. Dr. Friedel indicated this report provides the State Board with an opportunity to review the overall financial performance of each community college and the individual college’s assessment of its current budget. This report highlights individual college’s financial data and provides a state compilation of the data.

Michelle Tosel reported that when the State Board is asked to approve the community college certified budgets in May, Code of Iowa, Chapter 260C.17, some major revenue sources and expenditures such as state aid and salaries are not yet known. This financial status report was developed to provide the State Board with a clearer picture of the financial performance and the working budget of each community college. Tosel said the Department asked college staff to provide a short narrative describing their current financial status. For consistency purposes, each college received the same questions and was requested to respond in a question and answer format.

Indian Hills Community College President, Jim Lindenmayer talked about the process of putting community college budgets together and also some of the philosophical approaches in creating avenues to meet the reductions for these budgets. He shared information about the demographics of the area that is served by Indian Hills Community College and how the rise in tuition and cut in services affects these particular communities.

Michelle Tosel provided the following list of initiatives that colleges undertook to accommodate the 4.3% mid-year state general aid reduction for fiscal year 2002:

- Use a portion of their fund balance
- Not starting new programs
- Leaving staff positions vacant
- Cut or eliminate travel
- Raised tuition mid-year
- Offered special retirement plans
- Cut materials and supplies expense
- Increased class size
- Implemented a hiring freeze
- Suspended merit increases for administration

### **Iowa's Adult Basic Education Program Benchmarks for Program Year 2001**

Janice Friedel, Administrator; Evelyn Anderson, Chief and John Hartwig, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges presented information on Iowa's Adult Basic Education Program.

Hartwig indicated the legislative intent of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) was to establish performance measures and benchmarks to demonstrate increased program accountability in line with the major goals and objectives of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 [P.L. 105-220]. Congress made accountability for results a central focus of the law, setting out performance accountability requirements for state and local programs that measure program effectiveness on the basis of adult learner academic achievement and competency-based outcomes.

Goals of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act outlined by Mr. Hartwig were as follows:

- Assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency (Workplace Literacy);
- Assist adults who are parents obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children (Family Literacy);
- Assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education.

He also discussed the core indicators required by this Act. In summary, Mr. Hartwig presented the major benchmark achievements and the impact observations of these benchmarks.

Board members expressed their appreciation to John Hartwig for his concise report.

### **Districts Having Negative Unspent Balances for FY00-01**

Su McCurdy, Administrative Consultant and SBRC Liaison, presented this agenda item. She said that each district with a negative unspent balance must present a corrective action plan to the School Budget Review Committee. This has been done by the districts being reported to the State Board at this meeting. A major concern is any district that has negative unspent balances for several years in a row.

Mary Jean Montgomery asked with these budget reductions, do more negative balances occur. McCurdy indicated that the opposite was usually true, there are fewer negative balances. In some cases, districts simply spend more than has been authorized. In others, allowable growth has not kept up with needed expenditures or inadequate attention to budget matters is the cause.

### **Friday, March 15**

President Corine Hadley called the business meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **Redesigning High Schools**

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, introduced Laurie Phelan, State Director of School-to-Work for presentation of agenda item redesigning high schools. She referred to the work process used by the leadership team. Phelan indicated that Jim Wise, Executive Director, and Sue Donielson, Urban Education Network, Jan Huss, Consultant, Equity and Program Development and Pam Pfitzenmaier, Director, Educational Telecommunications were present to share the accomplishments and progress made in redefining high schools to this point.

Jim Wise and Sue Donielson, Urban Education Network gave an overview of the work process used in creating the report *Redefinition of High School: A Vision for Iowa*. They identified the following priority topics selected for this project:



Relationships  
Instructional Strategies  
School Environment  
Assessment & Accountability  
Postsecondary Connections

Dr. Wise concluded the presentation by summarizing the activities regarding the Urban Education Network report and the study to date as well as outlining the next steps relating to the final report due to the board in October.

Jan Huss, Equity and Program Development Consultant highlighted the progress of the leadership team, its representation, and the collaboration of the group in accomplishing the goals set out for the reinventing high schools project. The following breakdown of tasks assigned to the group were: 1) review literature; 2) Iowa based research; 3) forums statewide; 4) increase awareness and need to change; and 5) report to the Board. Huss focused on the results of these assignments and the involvement of all subcommittee members in reviewing and finalizing information into a final report.

An overall look at technology and the choices it would offer in redesigning high schools was discussed by Pamela Pfitzenmaier, Director of Educational Telecommunications. She described some of the current uses as well as the research being conducted. A look at what other states are doing and the success rate of their programs was also taken into consideration for any future enhancement of the program in Iowa.

Mary Jean Montgomery expressed her appreciation for the expertise in technology that Ms. Pfitzenmaier brings to this state and the nationwide respect she has earned for her knowledge in this area.

### **Update: Athletic Eligibility**

Carol Greta, Legal Consultant, gave an overview of the athletic eligibility issue to date. She indicated State Board members had expressed an interest in reviewing rule 36.15(2) related to eligibility requirements. Information provided as part of this agenda item were 1) the communications sent by this agency and the Unified Federation to various stakeholders, 2) a summary of the responses received, 3) a summary of what other states provide, if anything, in their rules regarding academic eligibility to compete in interscholastic athletic events.

A sample of opinions submitted by various school officials was also provided to Board members. Factors raised by the respondents and discussed by the Board included setting high academic expectations, sending a positive message, needs of at-risk students, local control, affect on dropout rates and juvenile crime rates, etc. Greg McClain pointed out that participation in extracurricular activities, with the exception of some students with disabilities, has been stated by the majority of courts to be a privilege, not a legal right.

After acknowledging the various concerns raised, Board members directed staff to present options for further discussion at the April meeting.

### **Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies (AEAs)**

Su McCurdy, Administrative Consultant and Marlene Dorenkamp, Consultant, School Finance Team presented this agenda item. Iowa Code section 273.3, subsection 12, requires that the Board either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments by April 1. McCurdy described the financial reporting and budgeting process for area education agencies.

Mary Jean Montgomery asked how the budget picture would look next year with consolidation of two area education agencies. McCurdy responded the budget figures would go down.

Motion: Don Roby moved and Sally Frudden seconded that the Board approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2002-2003.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

### **Status Report on Early Childhood Education**

Lana Michelson, Interim Bureau Chief, Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services introduced Dee Gethmann, Early Childhood Consultant for a presentation on the status of early childhood.

Gethmann explained that school entry is a critical transition point at which individual differences in what young children know and can do begin to be predictive of longer-term patterns of learning and achievement. Marked inequities in children's early learning opportunities are therefore a cause for serious concern. She indicated that in Iowa, research studies indicate that childcare settings are mediocre in quality. Iowa has among the lowest level of childcare regulation requirements in the United States. However, data indicates

the majority of mothers with children under 5 years are in the workforce, thus creating a great need for childcare. Iowa ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in the percentage of families with preschool children in which all parents in the household are employed. This creates a need for quality early learning experiences for young children.

Ms. Gethmann pointed out the early childhood trilemma which consists of quality, affordability, and accessibility were goals that needed to be on the forefront as we strive to improve Iowa's early childhood education.

Director Stilwill handed out a list of proposed topics for the April meeting.

President Corine Hadley adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

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Corine A. Hadley  
President

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Ted Stilwill  
Director

